

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2203

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2015

Implementation of ICDS Scheme

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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the factors hindering/impeding the effective implementation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has evaluated/reviewed or proposes to evaluate/review to scheme so as to ascertain its impact, if so, the details and outcome thereof indicating the shortcomings noticed therein;
- (c) whether various irregularities including misutilisation of funds in the said scheme has been reported in recent times, if so, the complaints reported in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise along with the action taken thereon;
- (d) whether the Government has set up any monitoring and review mechanism for effective implementation of the scheme, if so, the details thereof indicating the composition of committees constituted in this regard along with the number of meetings held by them during the said period; and
- (e) the further measures taken by the Government for coordination between various departments so as to make the scheme more effective?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) The universalisation of ICDS Scheme has been a mixed blessing. While adding the number of Anganwadi Centres(AWCs) and taking them to the door steps of children, it concomitantly brought in its wake, huge challenges in terms of resources as well as challenges of management, delivery of services with quality and standards, financial management, space for AWCs, human resource, issues of convergence, low focus on under three year children, ECCE, Strengthening training and capacity building monitoring, etc. These have by and large been addressed in the restructuring and strengthening of ICDS in 2012.

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(b) ICDS Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by States/UTs across the country. Periodical assessment of progress/achievements made by the States/UTs and improvement in functioning of various components of the scheme is an on-going and continuous process. This is done largely through monitoring reports and review meetings.

The issues broadly taken up for review are operationalization of projects and AWCs, filling up of vacant posts, diversion of manpower on non-ICDS functions, Supplementary Nutrition Programme, procurement and availability of medicine and Pre-School Education kits, holding Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs), growth monitoring, community and Panchayati Raj involvement, financial management, infrastructural issues, etc.

Shortcomings, noticed in achieving the targets are brought to the notice of the States/UTs.

(c) ICDS Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by States/UTs across the country. The responsibility for implementation of the Scheme and its management thereof rest with the States/UTs. During the last three years and current year 19 complaints from States (Maharashtra-8, Uttar Pradesh-4, Madhya Pradesh-2, Delhi-3, Odisha-1, Uttarakhand-1) regarding irregularities/corruption relating to inferior food has been reported.

(d) Yes, Government has introduced 5-tier monitoring & review mechanism at different levels (National/State/District/Block and Anganwadi level) by involving public representatives for monitoring the status of Anganwadi Centres. Government has issued guidelines on 31.3.2011 for constitution of Monitoring & Review Committees at different levels to review progress in implementation of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. These committees can also suggest steps for improving the functioning of ICDS Scheme. The details of the composition of the committees at different levels are at Annex.

(e) Convergence with various line Ministries/Departments is an integral part of ICDS. There has been effective convergence with Ministries of Health & Family Welfare, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Drinking Water & Sanitation, etc. The convergence is ensured through meetings, consultations, and by issuing joint guidelines. Recently joint guidelines have been issued by Ministry of Women & Child Development and Ministry of Rural Development for construction of 2 lakh AWCs in 11 States having backward districts. The 5-tier monitoring & review mechanism developed by the Government has in-built convergence mechanism.
